

Group Riding

Edmonton
Retreads

Group Riding
Version 1.0.5.1



Special points of interest:

- Riding in a group is a privilege not a right.
- Be prepared—both you and the bike.
- Be on time.
- You are responsible to the rider behind you as well as the rider ahead.
- Follow the Road Captain when a bike stops or when encountering an accident.
- Ride in control.
- Do not break the law.
- Signal hazards only if you can do so safely.

Group Riding

Group Riding is done for a number of reasons: 1) Maintain contact with your traveling companions, 2) establish a 'presence' on the road with cars and other vehicles, 3) provide mutual support in case of breakdown, etc. You can add many more valid reasons.

Group Riding means you have to become part of the group. It is not a place to duck and weave or show off your new mufflers with rapid acceleration or deceleration. A group should be a place of calm and consistency regardless of the speed. In order to achieve this there must be rules that everyone follows so the rest can anticipate

what you will do in most circumstances.

Therefore, Group Riding is a personal choice. If you choose to participate in a group ride you also choose to accept and follow the rules.

As part of a group each participant agrees to ride in a disciplined manner that is safe and courteous to every member of the group.

Everyone agrees to ride in a disciplined manner on a Group Ride

If you choose not to follow the rules it will be safer and more enjoyable for everyone if you do

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

not join the group. In that case find out where the group is going and then off you go to meet them at planned stops or the destination.

Be Prepared

For everyone's enjoyment The Rider (you) and The Bike (your motorcycle) (The Bike) should be ready prior to arriving at the departure point.

The Rider

Arrive on time and be prepared to ride. Make sure you arrive alert, feeling well and wearing the appropriate riding gear. Be aware of the rules the group you are riding with will be using and be mentally prepared to follow the rules.

If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe in the group—fall out and proceed to the destination on your own.

Know where the group is going and what the meeting alternatives are should you become separated from the group. Generally there is a plan in place to regroup should the group get separated. You may be separated but you can always catch up if you know the plan.

Ride within your comfort level and ability. When safe our groups will ride at or just under the speed limit for all club rides.

Know the signals that will be used during the ride.



Use the signals as required to alert the Road Captain as required. The Road Captain will pull over as soon as possible when safe.

Use the hazard signal with care. Ensure you are able to maintain control while passing the hazard. Each rider is responsible to look ahead and identify hazards on the roadway. *Observing bikes in front of you moving to the left or right should alert you to the possibility of a hazard on the roadway.*



The Bike

Before joining the group make sure your motorcycle has a full tank of fuel, tire pressures checked, lights working and oil level full.

Unless you are the lead bike ride with your headlight on low and all driving lights turned OFF!



Top Up!

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

At Stops

The Road Captain will check to see the range of all of the motorcycles and plan stops appropriately.

At each stop do your “business” first. Fuel up (you and the bike), wash your windshield, go to the washroom, etc as soon as possible once you get there. Save the conversations for when all of the business is complete. Keep an eye on the Ride Captain; when they start putting on their helmet, put yours on. Then when the Ride Captain signals it is time to depart you are ready.

The Ride

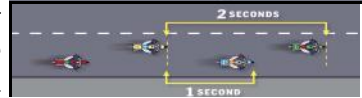
The Ride Captain will organize the participants into groups of 3 to 5 bikes depending upon the total number of motorcycles that will be traveling. Trikes or bikes with trailers will lead or be at the back of the group.

Each group will have a Ride Captain and Tail Gunner. We will try to maintain a 300 meter gap between each group providing room for cars to pass.

Maintain position

Maintain a 2 to 3 second gap between the rider in front of you. The distance between bikes will increase as speed

increases. Failing to maintain the proper interval may cause a slinky effect and is really annoying for the rider(s) behind you. It makes it extremely difficult for the Ride Captain and Tail Gunner to manage passing or turning manoeuvres when the group gets spread out. If the space becomes large enough cars will be encouraged to pass at inappropriate times which may cause extremely hazardous situations.



Stagger formation with minimum separation

Maintain Lane

Maintain your position in the lane to the extent possible. Bobbing or weaving unnecessarily is disconcerting to the rider behind you. They will drop back to give you extra room and may mistakenly assume there is a hazard you are avoiding. You can move when required to avoid obstacles and when going around curves.

Common Sense

Using “common sense” in a group ride means you ride considering everything and everybody. If you think the action you are taking would be annoying if an-

(Continued on page 4)

other rider in the group did the same thing to you – “WELL?”

Pointing out hazards

It is a nice gesture to point out obstacles, etc, however do so safely. Losing control of your motorcycle because you are attempting to point out a hazard will create a larger and more dangerous hazard. Everyone riding in the group is responsible to ride safely which includes looking ahead and take the necessary action to avoid the hazard.



Passing

Pass in a safe manner and pull in leaving enough space for the rest of the group to safely pull in between you and the vehicle that was just passed.

When on a two lane road pass when safe, the same as you would if by yourself. Don't forget to pull up far enough so the rest of the bikes can pass and turn in safely.

On a four lane or divided roadway the Road Captain will signal the intent to

Common sense and courtesy will make the ride more enjoyable for everyone!

pass. When safe the Tail Gunner will pull over to “secure” the passing lane. When the lane is secure the Road Captain will move into the passing lane and pass the vehicle. Move with the Road Captain to the other lane and follow. The manoeuvre will be reversed to return to the driving lane.

When passing using a passing lane it is advisable to pass as quickly as practicable. Driving for long distances beside the vehicle being passed can be dangerous! Transport trucks can flip up all kinds of debris, blow a tire or lose sight of you and change lanes. Children have been known to throw articles out of open windows. In either case you do not want to be there!

As well vehicles behind you may become frustrated and attempt to pass you on the shoulder. Use common sense to spend as little time as possible in this vulnerable position.

Driving

The Road Captain will signal for turns or lane changes. Pass the signals on using turn and hand signals.



In the curves

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)

Signal all turns and lane changes with turn and hand signals. After an adequate time of signaling, do a head check to see if you have adequate space and proceed to make the turn or lane change safely.

When a car needs to enter at an on-ramp, pulls in from an intersection or signals to break into the group, yield and give them plenty of room. Even though you have the right of way does not mean you should die trying to keep it.

Yield to vehicles attempting to break into the group. You may have the right of way but is it worth dying for!

Parking

When parking the Road Captain will attempt to locate a parking area large enough for all of the motorcycles in the group.

Leave enough room for the motorcycle in front of you to maneuver into a parking space before moving ahead.



Group Ride

Move into your parking spot as fast as practicable so the lane may be cleared quickly.

Emergencies

In the event of a motorcycle stopping during a ride continue to follow the Road Captain. **ONLY** the Tail Gunner will stop to assist the stopped motorcycle while the rest of the group follows the Road Captain to a safe spot to stop.

In case of an accident the Road Captain will take the group to a safe location. The Road Captain/Tail Gunner will assign riders to help with the accident scene as required.

Adopt A Group Mentality

You must become one of the group and move in concert with the group. Failing



Edmonton Toy Run



More care required on charity ride.

to do so creates extra risk for everyone in the group including you.

Responsibilities

Road Captain—the leader of a group. The Captain is responsible to:

- Conduct a Safe Ride
- Know the Planned Route and alternative routes should the need arise.
- Brief Riders before the Start of the Ride including CB channel to use.
- Explain the Group Rules for Member and Guest Riders
- Assign motorcycles to groups should the number of motorcycles be too large to travel in one pack.
- Assign Ride Captains to each of the sub-groups
- Along with the Tail Gunner, do a bike

and rider count.

Tail Gunner—the person bringing up the rear of the group. The Tail Gunner is responsible to:

- Maintains the safety of the group and the integrity of the group.
- Know the riding skill level of the group members you are following, so that you can determine if they are riding within their ability.
- Know routes to the predetermined destination's
- Supplies the "eyes" for the Ride Captain and the "voice" when necessary. i.e. "Rider #3, close it up please"; vehicle passing on right; etc.
- Informs the Ride Captain, if part of the group gets stuck by a light, another vehicle cuts into the group, etc., also informs the Ride Captain when the group is back together again.
- Assists Ride Captain in most, if not all lane changes.
- Watch for any hazards or problems with any of the group's motorcycles.
- Assist any rider in the group that needs to pull over. Informs the

Ride Captain and pulls over with the other rider.

- If a member of the group goes down, transmits "BIKE DOWN! BIKE DOWN!" on the C.B. (when equipped) and stops ASAP to help and/or direct traffic away from

Everyone shares responsibility on a Group Ride

the accident.

- Make mental notes on unsafe riding practices of the group members for post ride review that may require corrective actions.

ALL GROUP RIDER'S— This is **you** if you are not riding Lead or Tail Gunner.

- Observe the objectives and guidelines in order to assure the safety and welfare of each individual within the group.
- Road Captains, either leading the group



Large Group Ride

rect the ride. All riders will follow the instructions of the Lead in all situations, unless, to do so, would place the rider or any other individual in an unsafe situation.

- Maintain motorcycle in a safe riding condition.
- Ride with headlights on low beam.
- Ride with a "safety first" attitude.



Group Ride to Venice

or chasing the group, will brief and di-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Quick Reference

- The rules for Group Riding are meant to create a safe environment and enjoyable ride for all participants.
- If you are not comfortable in the group or prepared to follow the rules do not join the group. Ride to the destination on your own.
- Follow the directions of the Ride Captain .
- Be prepared to leave whether at the start of the ride or during fuel/nature stops.
- Ride 2—3 seconds behind the motorcycle in front of you.
- Stay in your part of the lane unless avoiding a hazard or going around a curve.
- Point out hazards in a safe manner.
- Pass on all signals given by the Ride Captain.
- On two lane roads pass when safe.
- On divided roads the Tail Gunner will secure the lane. Follow the lead of the Ride Captain to change lanes and pass.
- Do not dawdle when passing a vehicle on a divided highway!
- Treat all members of the Group with courtesy and respect.
- ONLY the Tail Gunner will stop for a disabled motorcycle. Follow the Ride Captain to a safe location before attempting to render assistance.
- In case of an accident, follow the Ride Captain to a safe location. The Ride Captain will direct the actions for traffic accommodation, etc.
- Your cooperation and participation in the Group Ride will make it a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants.

Prepared by;

Larry Fowell—Area Rep

John James—Ride Coordinator

Gordon Dewald—Newsletter Editor

NOTICE: This document prepared for the use of Edmonton Chapter, RETREADS® M.C. International Inc., AMA Charter 3233. Use of this document by the User is voluntary, and as such the User accepts all risk for interpretation and use of the methods described in this document.